

## ***Connie Tucker*** **Biographical Sketch**

***Connie Tucker***, a native of Alabama grew up in Seale and Tuskegee and Sarasota, Florida. There, she became active for social justice as a student in the late 1960s, emerging as a young leader of that state's Black Liberation Movement. Connie held administrative posts and helped to establish the Office of International Programs at Tuskegee University in Alabama. In the 1980s, Connie lived and worked for the United States Agency for International Development and the University of Wisconsin in The Gambia, West Africa. Returning to this country in the late 1980s, she became project coordinator for the 21st Century Youth Leadership Training Project in Selma.

In 1992, she worked as coordinator of the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice South-wide Environmental Justice Project, helping to organize its historic regional conference in New Orleans, the largest diverse environmental justice conference to date with 2500 people attending. In May 1993, she became the Director for SOC and grew its EJ network to one of the largest grassroots efforts in the United States and coordinates its Environmental Justice Task Force which works across the South, but prioritizes work in eight states in U.S. EPA Region IV. From this work, in cooperation with other grassroots environmental justice networks across the country, major environmental justice public policy victories have been won, at the state and federal levels; for example, the establishment of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) and the Clinton Environmental Justice Executive Order. As important, under Connie's leadership, the Southern grassroots environmental justice network worked to reform the Region IV U.S. EPA which has resulted in one of the most engaged EPA Environmental Justice Offices across the country and the integration of Environmental Justice across all of its divisions.

Connie has also tirelessly worked with efforts in several states to expose state regulatory agencies disproportionate permitting of toxic industries in communities of color and failure to enforce environmental laws, a delegated responsibility.

As an experienced activist and organizer, Connie focuses on a variety of social, economic and environmental justice concerns, such as cumulative risks and impacts, alternative dispute resolution and pollution prevention. She has exceptional talents and skills in community organizing, development of new leaders and activists, mentoring youth, and is also in great demand as a technical resource to local communities and consults for professional and academic institutions.

Connie has served on the Executive Council of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, its Waste and Facility Siting Sub-committee, and its Cumulative Risks and Impacts Work Group and Pollution Prevention Work Group. Most recently Connie served as the Programs and Partnership Coordinator for the Southeast Community Research Center which works with Historic Black Colleges and Universities and communities to employ community-based participatory research (CBPR). Presently, Connie is a private consultant.

Connie has served on a number of boards of directors. Presently she serves on the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, Alabama. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious national and international awards, the Austin/Bannerman Fellowship Award and the Resourceful Women's Award.